



INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION

HAGUE INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION CONVENTION ACCREDITATION FOR ADOPTION SERVICE PROVIDERS

The *Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption* (the Convention) entered into force for the United States on April 1, 2008. The Convention governs all adoptions between the United States and other countries party to the Convention.

Adoption service providers that provide adoption services in Convention adoption cases must be accredited, temporarily accredited or approved (hereinafter referred to generally as "accreditation"). Accreditation is important because it gives adoptive parents, children, birth families and foreign government authorities a level of assurance that U.S. agencies working on Convention cases have been evaluated and found compliant with Convention principles. The Department of State maintains a **current list of accredited adoption service providers** on the Department's website at travel.state.gov.

- The **Council on Accreditation and the Colorado Department of Human Services** are designated to accredit, monitor and oversee Convention adoption service providers. Adoption service providers are authorized to provide Hague Convention adoption services only after the accrediting entity has determined that they are in substantial compliance with the accreditation standards set out in 22 CFR Part 96. A pending application will not necessarily result in accreditation.
- **Accreditation is a rolling process.** The list will be updated regularly as additional adoption service providers successfully complete the process. Adoption service providers will be removed if they are found not to be in substantial compliance with the regulations or otherwise subject to adverse actions.
- **Term of Accreditation:** After the initial round of renewals, which will be staggered for three, four or five years, accreditation will last four years.
- **Temporary Accreditation:** Available only to smaller agencies on a one-time basis, temporary accreditation will last for one year or two years. A temporarily accredited agency must attain full accreditation by the time its temporary accreditation expires or thereafter work as a supervised or exempted provider.

Note: This document is not a substitute for the Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention, the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (IAA) or its implementing regulations, nor is it a comprehensive summary of the regulations. In the case of any inconsistencies between this document and the Convention, the IAA, or the regulations, the language of the Convention, the IAA, or the regulations governs.



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For more information please see our website at travel.state.gov
Or contact the U.S. Central Authority at AdoptionUSCA@state.gov